

2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Pine Tree Estates

PWSID # 0220206

In compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act amendments by Congress of 1996 and subsequent Federal and State regulations, Pine Tree Estates is pleased to provide this annual water quality report for calendar year 2008. Pine Tree Estates routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water. For more information on the source of your water and the significant potential sources of contamination, contact the Maryland Source Water Assessment Program at the Maryland Department of the Environment at (410) 631-3714 or visit on the web

www.mde.state.md.us/health/swap/

Is my water safe?

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to enduring the quality of your water. Last year, as in years past, your tap water met most U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791). Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

How do we monitor for contaminants?

Pine Tree Estates routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Pine Tree Estates is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Educational Statement for Lead

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing.

Educational Statement for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range Low High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	Plant ID
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.12	NA	02/09/05	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	01
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.14	NA	01/07/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	01
Sodium (ppm)	MNR	MNR	85	NA	02/09/05	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching	01
Sodium (ppm)	MNR	MNR	770	NA	01/07/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching	01
Arsenic (ppm)	NA	50	0.0026	NA	01/07/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff	01
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.8	0	12/31/07	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems	00
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.4	0	06/30/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems	00
Lead (ppb)	0	15	4.0	0	12/31/07	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	00
Lead (ppb)	0	15	7.0	0	06/30/08	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	00
Unregulated Contaminants								
Chloroform (ppb)	NA	NA	1.3	NA	4/20/06	No		01
Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides								
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	0	6	2	NA	4/20/06	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories	01
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	0.84		4/20/06	No	Runoff from herbicides used on rights of way	01
Organic Contaminants								
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	NA	0.71	NA	10/09/07	No	By-product of water disinfection	00
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	NA	10.11	NA	09/22/08	No	By-product of water disinfection	00
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	NA	2.8	NA	10/09/07	No		00
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	NA	7.8	NA	09/22/08	No		00

Units Description:

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

NR: Not reported

MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

of monthly positive samples: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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